



## **MONTHLY REPORT FEBRUARY 2019**

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### **Commercial and Recreational Fisheries**

- Shellfishing was slow in the beginning of the month due to ice. Cold weather continued, and the harbor was closed to shellfishing for two full days, two half days and two half tides due to temperatures below 28 degrees.
- So far, for 2019, we have sold 174 commercial permits, totaling \$40,962, and 215 recreational permits, totaling \$12,440.
- A rough, conservative estimate of commercial catches for the month is more than 75 bushels of oysters and 20 bushels of quahogs as tracked on commercial patrol.
- Four-five boats continue to bring in some bay scallops and blood clams.
- We estimate that approximately 4 bushels of oysters and 3.5 bushels of quahogs were harvested by recreational harvesters this month.

### **Enforcement**

- The department helped clean up lost aquaculture gear all month, including boat patrols and walking Egg Island to determine the extent of lost gear and hot spots for clean up – as well as to advise grant holders about where their stuff had ended up. Our office serves as a lost and found. Grant holders have also been searching for and retrieving their lost aquaculture gear.
- The department held a clean-up day on Saturday, Feb. 23, resulting in two tons of metal being collected (two dumpsters full). We thank Mike Cicale from the Transfer Station for his assistance – and the dozens of shellfishermen, commercial and recreational, who turned out to help.
- We received a call about shellfishermen hiding their catch in Duck Creek, and we confiscated the catch and returned the oysters to the water. We spoke with the shellfishermen and gave them verbal warnings as they had already lost income due to our confiscation.
- We pulled a grant holder's truck out of the mud.
- We educated a recreational fisherman about how he couldn't drive on the beach and that the fishery closes when the temperature goes below 28 degrees.
- We received a complaint about the storage of racks by the Indian Neck parking lot. We spoke with the grant holder, and he is actively working to get racks out of there.
- We received a call from an Environmental Police Lieutenant letting us know that he had issued a written warning to a Wellfleet wild harvester for exceeding the five percent seed threshold for oysters at a delivery inspection at a local wholesale dealer. We followed up with the harvester.

### **State and Town Relations**

- Assistant Constable Johnny Mankevetch and Deputy Constable Chris Manulla participated in a Mass. Shellfish Initiative Assessments Committee meeting at the Barnstable County complex.
- We put our boat back in the water to do state water quality testing.
- Constable Nancy Civetta and a grant holder participated in a Conservation Commission hearing about a beach nourishment project near the Field Point aquaculture area.
- Civetta attended a Shellfish Advisory Board meeting where the Mass. Shellfish Initiative was presented. She did not participate in any discussion.
- Civetta met with members of the Open Space committee regarding the southwest Lt. Island properties on the Town Meeting warrant.

**Propagation**

- Americorps members continue to make our oyster grow bags to earn community service hours.

**Education**

- Civetta and Mankevetch attended the Mass. Shellfish Officers Association Constable Training class held at Mass Maritime Academy the last week in February.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Civetta  
Shellfish Constable